

New MacEwan President Meets URDC and UFCE



(L to R) O. Bilash, J. Corlett, D. Saucier, G. Gordey, G. Zaharia, Y. Konkin

On October 26, 2017, Gordon Gordey, president of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), Olenka Bilash, vice-president of UFCE, George Zaharia, UFCE board member and Yuri Konkin, director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), met with Deborah Saucier, president of MacEwan, and John Corlett, MacEwan's provost. It was a good opportunity for us to brief Dr. Saucier on URDC's role in spearheading MacEwan's multifaceted programming in Ukraine, and discuss UFCE's current and future commitment to ongoing support of MacEwan's strategic pillar, "An Engaged University," which helps grow best practices and provides benefits to both the community and the university. The discussion was very open, constructive and positive.

The president and the provost expressed satisfaction at the current level of Ukrainian programming, and pledged further support to our projects. The parties agreed to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan University and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, "...in support of the parties' commitment to collaborate and cooperate in their efforts regarding URDC."

Dr. Saucier gladly accepted UFCE's invitation to attend the Kyiv Koneksiion Banquet, scheduled for May 2, 2018.



Captain Mike Dullege

The Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) Achieves New Success in Fulfilling its Mission of Strengthening Cultural and Educational Ties between Canada and Ukraine

Traditionally, May and June are the months of the Kyiv Koneksiion Banquet and the United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic, two annual fundraising events organized by UFCE to support partnership undertakings with MacEwan University, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan and other educational institutions.



Ed Stelmach, The Tournament Patron serving koozie on the bun to the golfers

The 24th Kyiv Konnection Banquet held on May 4, 2017, at St John's Cultural Centre was proud to feature two keynote speakers: Mike and Christie Dullege. Almost 200 people attended the event to hear first-hand what Operation UNIFIER, Canada's training support to Ukrainian forces, is accomplishing. Having just completed his mission at a military training base in western Ukraine, Captain Mike Dullege from Lord Strathcona's Horse shared his experiences of day-to-day training activities in explosive ordnance disposal, individual weapons training, combat first aid and tactical convoy operations. The audience was keen to learn about the personal friendship that develops with Ukrainian colleagues from a belief in maintaining sovereignty, security and stability. Captain Dullege was joined by his wife Christie, who was also interviewed in a fire-side chat format to speak about a soldier's overseas mission from the perspective of a family.

This was a great opportunity for the community in Edmonton to say thank-you to our Canadian Forces.

On June 16, 2017, several dozen men and women got together at the Whitetail Crossing Golf Course in Mundare to take part in the United for Ukraine Charity Golf Classic 2017.



Al Skoreyko, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, presents the Tournament Trophy to the representatives of MacEwan's Faculty of Nursing

The golfers and volunteers, including a team from MacEwan University, braved torrential rain and hail to complete eight out of 18 holes. But Mother Nature was harsh that day, so after a couple of hours drenched to the skin, players took shelter at the golf course lounge to enjoy hot drinks and ukulele entertainment by Gene Zwozdesky as a prelude to the beautiful dinner served by local women at the community centre.

The tournament organizing committee, chaired by Al Skoreyko, decided that it would be appropriate to award the main trophy to volunteers Elizabeth Burges-Pinto, Christine Shumka and Yvonne Shelast, who represented the Faculty of Nursing at MacEwan University. Well done, ladies!

The above events were organized to enhance educational linkages that exist between MacEwan University and its partners in Ukraine in the areas of nursing, sociology, journalism, communication, faculty development, services for students with disabilities, arts and science.

MacEwan-TSMU Partnership is Gaining Momentum

MacEwan has been privileged to be partnered for several years with Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU), one of the leaders of medical and nursing education in Ukraine.

We are proud that our joint projects have been recognized as a vital and timely contribution to the development of a contemporary nursing curriculum in Ukraine, and have been supported by many important stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Government of Alberta and Embassy of Canada to Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian Canadian community organizations such as the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE).

The year 2017 saw several important milestones that indicate growing cooperation between TSMU and the Faculty of Nursing at MacEwan:

- MacEwan nursing students and faculty took part in the International Health Students Summer School in Ternopil;



MacEwan nursing team at the TSMU International Summer School

- Colette Foisy-Doll, director of the Clinical Simulation Centre at MacEwan, delivered a series of workshops at TSMU;
- Dr. Nataliya Haliyash (TSMU) visited MacEwan for three weeks to study simulation-based learning and teaching practices;
- Preparations for the joint delivery of the course, HSLT 400 – Global Health Perspectives were finalized. Twenty MacEwan nursing students will take this three-credit course together with 20 Ukrainian peers in May 2018;
- Dr. David Atkinson received honorary professorship from TSMU.

From International Health Summer School to the Joint Delivery of the Credit Course in Ukraine

In July 2017, Assistant Professor Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto and Nurse Educator Christine Shumka accompanied four students (Jessica Katerenchuk, Lisa Barrie, Christine Esawi and Chelsea Boot) from the Department of Nursing Science to Ternopil, where they attended a summer school program. Ternopil International Health Students Summer School aims to create partnerships and learning opportunities between students in health-related fields from different countries. This was the 12th year that Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU)

hosted students from around the world, including participants from Ukraine, Poland, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Slovakia, Georgia and Canada. Nursing student Jessica Katerenchuk described the program as "not solely a camp where [students] learned facts or attended lectures, but [...] an assembly of friends coming together to learn from each other as individuals from different regions of the world." She recalled that the "intermingling of a diverse range of personalities created a patchwork of friendships so intricate it truly created a family."

During the visit, MacEwan participants had several opportunities to learn about Ukrainian heritage and culture. They observed a colourful student showcase of traditional folk songs and dances; visited an ethnographic exhibition of embroidery, household items and antiques; participated in a traditional art class of Petrykiv painting; had several informal discussions with Ukrainian students while kayaking on the Dniester River; took a day trip to Khotin Fortress; and of course, tasted delicious pierogis and borscht.

The International Student Summer School Program included presentations from each student cohort about their country of origin, which provided opportunity to learn from and with each other about varying cultural norms,

traditions and health-care practices. The MacEwan nursing students delivered an excellent presentation that highlighted details about Canada, our health-care system, MacEwan University and the nursing profession. Elizabeth and Christine facilitated a workshop entitled "Global Health Perspectives—Moving Beyond Disease Control." Further learning opportunities that enhanced our students' experience included hospital tours, a tour of TSMU and a simulation competition titled "Teamwork in Medical Emergencies."

Our MacEwan nursing students reflected on their experiences during the two-week summer school by creating a blog, and they also attended a debriefing session facilitated by Elizabeth and Christine upon return to Canada. The students discussed several themes regarding lessons learned and knowledge translation. A few of these accounts were described as follows:



MacEwan nursing team at the TSMU International Summer School

"I believe projects that we worked on together, such as the video collage, shows that though we are not all the same nationality, or share all the same qualities, we are all global citizens. Through this past week, I have really noticed that we may have varying language, cultural norms and differences, but that we are more the same than anything. Being at TSMU International

Summer School has really showed me that across cultures, each person wants to progress their country, build new friendships and achieve a better quality of life and happiness." (Chelsea Boot)

"The hospital tour was one of the biggest highlights for me during this trip. Talking with the students I had an idea of what health-care was like in Ukraine, but it was even more interesting to see how the nursing profession is treated and perceived." (Lisa Barrie)

"Because of the language barrier, this experience enhanced my communication skills immensely, which will improve my relational practice. I'm more cognizant of needing to take my time and think about how I'm communicating both verbally and nonverbally." (Christine Esawi)

The opportunity to attend the Ternopil International Summer School served as a springboard for planning the initial offering of HLST 400: Global Health Perspectives, a study abroad tour to Ukraine. This credit course will take place in May 2018, with 20 students attending from MacEwan University and 20 students from TSMU. Based on debriefing and feedback from the students who attended the summer school in July 2017, faculty members from TSMU and MacEwan are currently collaborating to create a meaningful learning experience for students enrolled in HLST 400 during the spring semester. Key themes of this course will include global health, global citizenship, equity and inclusion, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the influences of physical and social environments and policies on health and wellness. MacEwan students will have opportunities to connect and collaborate with students, faculty and practitioners in Ukraine. It is expected that this trip will lay the foundation for future collaborations of teaching and research between MacEwan and TSMU faculty members and students.

Elizabeth and Christine expressed their appreciation of the support provided

by URDC and UFCE, reporting that they both "would like to acknowledge The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), who have provided invaluable support for students and faculty who are collaborating on these projects." Elizabeth and Christine thank both URDC and UFCE for their hard work.

Integrating Contemporary Clinical Simulation into the Nursing Curriculum in Ukraine

In October 2017, Nataliya Haliyash, professor from Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) successfully completed her three-week internship at the Faculty of Nursing at MacEwan University, spearheaded by Colette Foisy-Doll, director of the Clinical Simulation Centre (CSC).

"It has been a whirlwind, learning-filled three weeks for Nataliya," recalled Foisy-Doll at the time. She first met Nataliya last May, when she had a great opportunity to visit MacEwan's partners at TSMU to deliver several workshops there. During her internship at the MacEwan CSC, Dr. Haliyash engaged in many capacity-building activities to better prepare her to lead the integration and implementation of simulation-based learning and inter-professional education at TSMU. Nataliya also had a chance to attend a meeting of our Academic Women's Network, at which MacEwan President Deborah Saucier was welcomed.

At the debriefing session at the end of her visit, Nataliya expressed her appreciation to her colleagues and new friends at MacEwan for the excellent learning experience. Our special thanks go to Dean Vince Salyers, Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto, Christine Shumka, Carol Wild, Ann Little, the faculty members teaching in N479 and N489, the CSC team, as well as, the simulation community of practice partners; Joe MacPherson, Norbert Werner and Kerri

Oshust at NAIT; Dr. Melissa Chan, Dr. Bin Zheng, How Lee, Brenda MacIntyre and Sharla King at the University of Alberta; and Lynn Neis at Norquest for their support of this internship co-sponsored by the Alberta Government through its International Education Award – Ukraine program. Also at the session, Colette recalled what "a pleasure [it had been] to return the favor by hosting [Nataliya's] visit to Canada while having the opportunity of getting to know [her] better." She described Nataliya as a "courageous and inspiring leader."



David Atkinson speaking at TSMU

David Atkinson Awarded Honorary Professorship by TSMU

Last May, TSMU celebrated its 60th anniversary. Our partner university used this occasion to confer the title of Honorary Professor to Dr. David Atkinson in front of 1,000 academics from across Ukraine and over 70 guests from overseas.

In his address, Dr. Atkinson wished TSMU many more years of innovative academic endeavors. MacEwan and TSMU look forward to further enhancing our successful partnership, which builds the international capacity of both universities, provides opportunities to engage in diverse cultures and promotes intellectual and professional challenges to faculty and students.



David Atkinson and Colette Foisy-Doll meeting with the TSMU student government



Nataliya Haliyash (centre) among nursing colleagues from MacEwan



Anastasia Vedernikova, and Khrystyna Snihura meeting with Provost John Corlett

MacEwan and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) Help to Build Bridges Between Alberta and Lviv

In 2017, MacEwan and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) launched a program of student exchanges stipulated by the partnership agreement between our two universities.

- Last May, Alicia Slusarchuk, a third-year student in our Bachelor of Communication Studies program, took a three-week credit course to study Ukrainian language and culture at UCU. Alicia was impressed by the quality of the program, noting its cultural aspects, on-campus

accommodations and food, and general inclusive nature.

She described the program as having been "specifically tailored by a group of teachers to [her] Ukrainian language ability, which was determined by an aptitude examination," which she cited as having been "instrumental [to her] progression and success." Though the summer program at UCU has more students enrolled, the spring program in which Alicia participated allotted more one-on-one time with its teachers. The school, Alicia noted, "was very open to feedback, and gave a questionnaire each week on how they could improve." She noted that her language skills improved each day.

Beyond the improvement in her Ukrainian language and the positive environment the program fostered, Alicia expressed that the program "surrounded [her] with a culture [she] loves." She cited days in which the

teachers would take students out to the city's centre, to provide students with an out-of-classroom experience of Ukraine. Alicia loved the program's excursions, her most favourite included painting a traditional folk icon, attending an opera and visiting the famous Luchakiv cemetery, which she said was beautiful.

Overall, Alicia stated that she "could not recommend a better spring program for a MacEwan student wanting to learn a language—[it] accommodates to any language level and provides an unforgettable culture-enriched experience." Alicia gained "many amazing memories," stating also that "none of [them] would have been possible without the support of MacEwan International, UFCE, Yuri Konkin, director of URDC, and Lucille Mazo, [her] program chair." She would like to extend her sincere thank you to all mentioned—as well as to give a small, honorable mention to "all of the chocolate [she] brought home!"

- Last Fall, Anastasia Vedernikova, an IT student from UCU, took four courses at MacEwan: *Advanced Data Bases and Data Mining, Computer Security, Developing of Computer Games, and Spanish.*

Her favorite subject, Anastasia noted, was computer security. "[Students] were hacking each other and learning important things for [their] future projects, [as well as fostering] teamwork." Compared to her home university of UCU, Anastasia noted she spent less time with her teachers because of MacEwan's large size. She cited studying as being more independent, with examinations being more frequent than she was used to. "Teach[ing] myself to organize [my] time and not leave everything until the last minute [was] kind of a challenge sometimes," she recalled. In general, she stated that the methodology of teaching was similar to her university program at home.



Alicia Slusarchuk, (third from right), receiving her certificate at UCU

In terms of the less-technical aspects of the program, Anastasia recounted that "being part of the Ukrainian community, an international family and residence life [at MacEwan] opened a big variety of opportunities [for her]." She enjoyed the different activities that were organized for her, such as celebrations around Ukrainian Heritage Day, Thanksgiving, and Halloween, as well as hockey games, cupcake decorating, pet therapy, movie night and more. Anastasia also got the chance to visit the Rocky Mountains, including Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, Maligne Canyon, Johnston Canyon and the Columbia Icefield, and Calgary. She noted that all the views were breathtaking.

Lastly, Anastasia praised the Buddy Program, organized by the MacEwan International Office. "[The program] pleasantly surprised me, and I would like to become [a buddy] for future international students in my university," she said. Inspired further by her own experience, she plans to help with the organization of several visits of MacEwan students to Ukraine this year, including the International Student Leadership Conference at UCU (which will be attended by Stephanie Nedoshytko, SAMU president, and her vice-president academic), as well as the 20 nursing students from MacEwan who will partake in a program about

Ukrainian language and culture at UCU prior to taking their nursing course in Ternopil. Anastasia "hope[s] they will fall in love with Ukraine as [she] did with Canada."

Overall, Anastasia expressed that her experience "opened for [her] a lot of new places, languages, and cultures," as well as citing having made "new friends from all over the world," and "[having] learned useful tools and algorithms for [her] future programming tasks." Time spent in Canada helped Anastasia to "develop [herself] both as a person and a programmer," and she hopes that she will "have a chance to share this unforgettable experience with others." Anastasia thanks MacEwan, UFCE and URDC for their "support and encouragement during this incredible and life-changing learning experience."



Alicia, Khrystyna, Nastia (L to R) with UCC-APC President Olesia Luciiv-Andryjowycz celebrating the Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day

- Last September, the School of Continuing Education at MacEwan hosted Khrystyna Snihura, an ESL instructor from the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv. During a meeting with the provost, John Corlett, Khrystyna brimmed with excitement about her learning experiences at MacEwan. She was eager to share her new knowledge and state-of-the-art teaching techniques and approaches with her colleagues and students in Ukraine.



Faculty development seminar at UCU. Sitting (L to R) Carolyn Ives, Oksana Pasichnyk and Cynthia Zutter

MacEwan's CAFÉ Shares its Rich Menu with Partner Universities in Ukraine

Although Ukraine has inherited a vertically integrated system of professional development from the Soviet Union, that system has long become obsolete, and does not meet the real needs of the faculty involved in post-secondary education.

Our partner universities in Ukraine—National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU)—see a solution in establishing in-house faculty development services, based on the model of the Centre for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ) at MacEwan.



CAFÉ's Great Teachers Seminar 2017

Last June, Serhiy Kvit, former Minister of Education of Ukraine and current director of the Quality Assurance Centre at NaUKMA, and Oksana Pasichnyk, a staff member of the Centre for Innovative Technologies at UCU, successfully implemented their 10-day visit to Alberta.

Serhiy and Oksana attended several workshops at CAFÉ, spearheaded by Carolyn Ives, Paul Martin, Kim Peacock, Sarah Flynn and Daniel Braun. Drs. Kvit and Pasichnyk also had a chance to exchange best practice ideas with over 30 colleagues from Canada and other countries, who took part in the Great Teachers Seminar, an annual event organized by CAFÉ at the Banff Centre.

"The seminar was really great, it's an unusual way of professional development, which might be very interesting to try to implement in Ukraine," said Pasichnyk. She noted that she had "already been able to recommend some of the resources [she's] learned in Canada (both in CAFÉ and Banff) to [her] colleagues on active learning and class organization." "[It is] amazing how timely I've got these materials!" she quipped.

The second step of our joint programming with CAFÉ, aimed at enhancing the in-house faculty development capacity of our partner universities, was a visit to Ukraine by Cynthia Zutter, vice-provost, Research

at MacEwan, and Carolyn Ives, interim director of CAFÉ.

The workshop, which took place last October at the UCU, brought together 30 faculty members from UCU, NaUKMA and TSMU.

The four-day workshop included the following topics preselected by the Ukrainian participants:

- Supporting or Spoon-feeding? Fostering Student Responsibility for Learning
- Constructive Alignment: Elements from the Course (Re)Design Institute
- It's on the Syllabus: Building Your Best Course Outline
- Flipping Classes in Post-Secondary: Moving Your Lecture outside of Class Time
- First Day of Class Boot Camp!

All Ukrainian participants and Canadian trainers recognized the October workshop as a great success, and saw it as an important step in a series of activities and events that URDC is scheduled to implement in 2017-19 together with CAFÉ and the MacEwan faculties involved in our Ukrainian programming.

Carolyn Ives and Paul Martin will continue this capacity-building collaborative effort in April 2018, when they deliver a demand-driven seminar for the Ukrainian faculty at NaUKMA.

MacEwan Students Help Ukrainian Children Learn New Skills and Ukrainian Kids Help Our Students Grow Academically, Professionally and Personally

URDC is happy to congratulate Larisa Hayduk, faculty advisor at MacEwan, and the following eight MacEwan students, who successfully completed MacEwan's COSL 301 – Community Service Learning: Building Peaceful Communities, a new, multi-disciplinary six-credit course:

- Rebekah Fortier
- Sheyla Carson
- Christina Pelster
- Shazia Dhalla
- Sydne Pederson
- Daniela Villa Orozco
- Cassandra Gallant
- Jessica Vallee

The course was launched at MacEwan last year. Its distinct feature is a three-week practicum in the summer camp in Vorokhta, in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine, which envisages a variety of projects aimed at increasing learning opportunities for orphans and other disadvantaged children in Ukraine. This innovative educational initiative was implemented in partnership with Help Us Help the Children (HUHTC), a community organization based in Toronto. In August 2017, the camp was attended by over 200 kids from across Ukraine. The educational activities offered by MacEwan students included English classes, American Sign Language, Spanish, Art and even Salsa dancing! Our students also learned a



Having fun in Vorokhta

lot from the Ukrainian children, who helped them grow as future social sciences professionals and citizens of the world. The program for our students also included a short course in Ukrainian language and culture provided by the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), our partner university in Lviv.

"I hope that this powerful experience will inspire students to become more active citizens at home, and that they will come back wanting to give back within their own communities," said Larisa.

"I wish that everyone in my program was able to go and do this because it's super important, especially in the human services field," said Shazia, a student participant, noting further that she "would love to go back, hopefully in the next couple of years, because it was an amazing experience."

This project would not be possible without generous support from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), the Shevchenko Foundation and the MacEwan University Ukrainian Students Club.



MacEwan Hug in Vorokhta



Larisa Hayduk (L) and MacEwan students in Vorokhta

Fighting Propaganda and Debunking Lies: Lessons from Ukraine's StopFake Project

To continue our successful collaboration with the School of Journalism at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), Dr. Dariya Orlova visited MacEwan at the beginning of February 2018, the month in which Global Awareness Week (GAW) is celebrated.

Dariya is a senior lecturer and Deputy Director for Research at the Mohyla School of Journalism. She holds a PhD in Mass Communications from Autonomous University of Barcelona.

She has also served as an independent media expert and researcher with various NGOs, locally and internationally. Among other projects, she is a contributor to the "Freedom of the Net Report" by Freedom House. Prior to her academic career, Dariya worked as a journalist for the Kyiv Post, an English-language publication in Ukraine, as well as editor of the *European Journalism Observatory* website in Ukraine.

The program of her visit included a speaking event for students, faculty and staff to present the StopFake project that was launched as a journalist/civil society initiative in 2014 to debunk lies, propaganda and sheer "fake news" unleashed by the Russian state media to smear the Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine.

Spearheaded by the Mohyla School of Journalism, the StopFake project has grown into an internationally recognized endeavor, which successfully counters and debunks even the most sophisticated tools of the contemporary Russian propaganda machine, such as distortion, half-truths, manipulations (presenting someone's opinion as a fact/trend), hate speech labels, fake visuals,



Tamara Martsenyuk and Jeff Stepnisky

dissemination of conspiracy theories and staged reports.

Upon reflection of her program, Dariya expressed that her visit to MacEwan "proved to be a productive and exciting experience." "During the visit I attended several classes, including *Communication Theory, Multimedia Authoring, Media and the Message, Visual Communication and Advanced Research Methods* and contributed with presentations on Ukraine's media landscape after Euromaidan Revolution, challenges of Russian propaganda and Ukraine's response to it," she recounted. Dariya added that she had several occasions to communicate with the faculty of the Department of Communication Studies, learn about its curriculum, the way its programs are organized and structured, and the teaching approaches and major directions of the department's activities.

In addition, Dariya attended a special meeting organized by CAFÉ where she found out about "a number of impressive cooperation projects between MacEwan and Ukrainian partner institutions." "Despite some substantial differences between Mohyla School of Journalism (NaUKMA) and the communication/journalism department at MacEwan in terms of the programs' sizes, different focuses on BA vs. MA studies, etc.,"

Dariya believes that there is "significant potential for cooperation" between the two departments. In particular, she noted her belief in great potential in the area of joint research projects by the faculty members.

"We had a preliminary conversation with the chair of Communication Studies, Dr. Lucille Mazo, on possible research projects," she added. "As a next step," she continued, "I would suggest exchanging the lists of research interests and topics by faculty members of our departments to identify common fields of interest." Dariya also expressed the potential for smaller, comparative research projects, conducted by students of the two programs as part of research methods courses. Finally, Dariya noted that there are "prospects for programs of student visits," as Mohyla School of Journalism regularly hosts groups of foreign journalism students who come for field trips to explore various topics in Ukraine. "Usually, foreign students team up with ours to produce different types of content," Dariya noted, "[so] this option for cooperation could be further explored."

Dariya "thoroughly enjoyed [her] visit to MacEwan University, communication with the faculty and students, and sharing knowledge about present-day Ukraine."



Dariya Orlova, (third from right) with MacEwan colleagues and students

MacEwan Department of Sociology Hosts a Leading Gender Studies Scholar from Ukraine

Last November, URDC and the Department of Sociology at MacEwan had the privilege to host Dr. Tamara Martsenyuk, associate professor of sociology from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), who is currently a Fulbright scholar at Columbia University in the city of New York. Tamara presented the results of her recent research dedicated to the roles of Ukrainian women on the Maidan and as actors in the war in Donbas. Her research showed a slow shift of public perceptions from a traditional idea that "women can only help men to make the revolution or fight the war," to a more egalitarian and inclusive idea that "women are equal makers/actors in the revolution and the war for freedom." The Q&A part of our speaking event, which brought together many students, faculty and community representatives, turned into a stimulating discussion about the changing dynamic in Ukrainian society with regard to feminism and LGBTQ rights.

Tamara also had the chance to meet with colleagues at MacEwan involved in the development and implementation of

the policy on the prevention of sexual violence and harassment on campus. According to Tamara, the meeting was useful and timely, since she is currently spearheading the development of a similar comprehensive policy at NaUKMA.

Dr. Jeff Stepnisky, head of our Department of Sociology, who taught at NaUKMA in the fall of 2016, believes that Tamara's visit was an important step in enhancing faculty exchanges and research opportunities between MacEwan and NaUKMA.

Jeff and Tamara also took part in the final conference of the Research Initiative on Democratic Reforms in Ukraine (RIDRU), an innovative research project spearheaded by Dr. Olenka Bilash (University of Alberta), which MacEwan and NaUKMA have been proud to be partnered with over the past three years.



Abigail Parrish-Craig presenting at UCU

MacEwan Continues its Assistance to the Partner University in Lviv in Establishing Services to Support Students with Disabilities

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) congratulates Abigail Parrish-Craig, chair of the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at MacEwan University, on the success of her visit to Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), our partner university in Lviv. Abigail's visit was implemented in the Fall of 2017 as part of our plan aimed at assisting UCU in establishing contemporary SSD. Abigail also took part in the All-Ukrainian Forum "Access of the Individuals with Disability (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) to the Higher Education," organized by UCU in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences and Ukrainian Association of the Deaf (UTOH). The event was also supported by the Canada-Ukraine Alliance for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons.

URDC and UFCE Lose Great Champion and Friend

On August 1, 2017, we lost Edward Piasta, a renowned legal professional and a true community leader. Ed began his legal practice with Liden, Murray & Ackroyd in Edmonton, and remained with its successor, as a partner of Ackroyd, Piasta, Roth & Day, for over 45 years. His practice covered all aspects of law, initially including civil litigation at all levels of the courts and then moving primarily into corporate and commercial matters as well as business and real estate law. Ed travelled to Eastern Europe on many occasions to render legal services in the structuring, organization and registration of joint ventures involving Canadian business interests. He also provided legal counsel to the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Edmonton. He was appointed Queen's Counsel by the Law Society of Alberta in 1988 and retired from the practice of law in 2007.



Ed Piasta (L) receiving UFCE's President Award from Ernest Skakun

Ed also served in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of the Regiment. Ed was the youngest commanding officer in the history of the Regiment and the only commanding officer of Ukrainian descent. He was awarded the Canadian Decoration in 1972.

Over the years, Ed was actively involved in many community organizations, most prominently the Advisory Council for Alberta Ukraine Relations and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE).

In 2016, Ed received the UFCE President's Annual Award for his "dedication and commitment and his exceptional contributions in fostering the growth and the identity of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre and the greater Ukrainian community."

